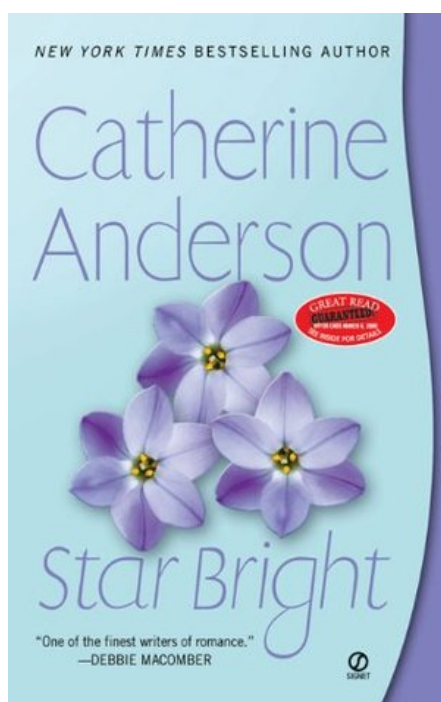




Star Bright

Catherine Anderson

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Faking her own death is the only way Rainie Hall can hope to escape her brutal, murderous husband. Now, with a new identity, she finds refuge in the rural community of Crystal Falls, Oregon, where she starts work on a horse ranch run by rugged, dangerously good-looking Parker Harrigan.

Parker's word is his honour, and he can't tolerate liars. When he realises that Rainie hasn't been truthful with him, he's furious, then concerned. Clearly she's a woman in trouble, and if she'll trust him, he'll do right by her. But as their initial attraction blossoms into a deep and thrilling passion, Rainie fears that she can never escape retribution from the man who has sworn to kill her, Parker swears to protect Rainie no matter what, but even he can't help wondering whether all his strength and ingenuity can save the love of his life from a determined psychopath....

Star Bright Details

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Author : Catherine Anderson

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From Reader Review Star Bright for online ebook

Ian says

Fearing for her life, Raine fakes her own death and runs from her psychopathic husband. She lands in Chrystal Falls living in a run down rental with an abandoned cat and good will furniture. Fast running out of money she gets a job working as book-keeper for Parker Harrigan on his ranch, but with everyone looking for her, her secrets are anything but safe, and if her husband finds her first he'll kill her.

This is really very good. I think it was a little long-winded towards the end but over-all it was a satisfying and enjoyable read.

Sarah says

Lorraina Hall is on the run after faking her own death to get away from her husband, who she is positive is trying to kill her. Armed with a fake identity (Anna Pritchard), Rainie Desperately needs work in order to feed and clothe herself. Responding to an ad in the paper for a book keeper, Rainie finds herself working for Parker Harrigan. He's a handsome, straight forward man...

Parker Harrigan hires Anna on to be his book keeper for his quarter horse breeding farm. Immediately he knows something is not quite what it seems. Anna seems to jump whenever he moves too quickly. Parker doesn't like lying and hates it when people lie to him, so when he finds out everything about Anna is a lie, he's right pissed, but quickly realizes she only lied out of necessity. Soon he grows concerned of the threat Rainie's husband might still pose to her. But he's not a man of inaction...

This is another sweet romance from Catherine Anderson. It does have a bit of religious twangs about it as you read on. Most of it surrounds marriage and almost all of it is the Roman Catholic Church side of things. It's not heavy, but it's there, so if you don't like a religious flavouring added to your books, maybe pass this one by and know that you missed out on a pretty good story, for a romance.

I do love how Parker took it upon himself to teach Rainie how to defend herself, knowing that he couldn't be there to protect her 24/7. More often than not in most books, the man always saves the day and never thinks to train the woman for the possibility that he might not be there when shit goes downhill.

Christel says

Another great read from Anderson. Her books to me keep getting better and better as time goes on. I guess I am a little biased but I have not read a bad book yet from this author. The love stories are sweet and consuming and there is always an HEA

Ann Keller says

Rainie Hall was desperate! If she didn't escape her abusive husband, Peter Danning, she was certain he would kill her, perhaps in the same way that he murdered his other two wives. Rainie's friends help her and

she flees to the small town of Crystal Falls, Oregon, a place where she hopes Peter will never find her.

With her borrowed funds rapidly dwindling, Rainie takes a job on a horse ranch run by handsome Parker Harrigan. Harrigan hires her as his accountant, but Rainie's skittishness puzzles him. She seems to be terrified of her own shadow and men frighten her for some reason. Parker does a background check and quickly realizes most of what is on Rainie's job application is a lie, a fable meant to deceive him into hiring her.

Parker is angry and upset with himself for trusting her. He was really beginning to like Rainie and eagerly looked forward to their impromptu discussions. When the truth comes out, however, Parker realizes Rainie is a woman on the run, someone desperately in need of a champion. Chivalrous Parker Harrigan would never turn from a woman in trouble.

Parker and Rainie contact the authorities, who stage an elaborate plan to use Rainie as bait to trap Peter Danning. The FBI has the serial killers' monikers and present a web of entrapment to fit the profile. Unfortunately, Peter is a serial killer with a twist - a twist that may very well spell the end of both Rainie and Parker. Will Peter succeed in cornering Rainie despite the FBI's precautions or will Rainie somehow find the strength to fight for her own life and for a love she cannot deny?

Anyone who has been involved in or has witnessed an abusive relationship will identify with the characters in this book. Catherine Anderson has captured the incredible amount of damage that can be done to those victimized by their abusers. The toll goes well beyond the broken bones and bruises and into the psyche itself. Normalcy is twisted into some dull aberration, trust disappears and concept of self is beaten down relentlessly until only a glimmer of the former individual glows in the farthest reaches of the mind. I applaud Ms. Anderson's portrayal of the slow, gradual healing process as well and the incredible restraint and love that must be shown by those who seek to bring the victims back into the light.

jenjn79 says

As much as I love Catherine Anderson's books, I must admit I was wary of this one. The last two books of this series just didn't do much for me, especially the last one, *Morning Light*, because of all the religious talk in it. It just doesn't appeal to me. I wondered if Anderson was shifting her writing to be more Inspirational, which for an atheist like me, just isn't my thing. So I was very happy and relieved when I read *Star Bright* and saw that it was much more typical of her past books. There's still some religion, but no where near as much as the last book (thank goodness!). This ended up being a great read. Probably not one I'd classify as a favorite, but still one I enjoyed a lot and didn't want to put down.

In *Star Bright*, Rainie Hall is a young woman trapped in a horribly abusive marriage to a man who just wants her money. When she realizes he plans to kill her, she has to make a move. Faking her death and assuming a new identity with the help of friends, she escapes to Crystal Falls, Oregon, and gets a job as a bookkeeper at Parker Harrigan's ranch. Rainie's past has made her completely unable to trust any man, but Parker's gentle ways and innate kindness draw her in before she even realizes it. It isn't long before Parker discovers that her identity is a lie, and over time he learns about the hell Rainie lived through. He can't help but fall in love with her. Getting Rainie to trust him, though, isn't easy. But eventually, she sees him for the good man he is. She wants a life with him, but in order to get that, she must first settle her past.

There's something about a Catherine Anderson story that just really sucks you in. She's a very gifted storyteller who can run you through an emotional wringer, yet leave you with warm fuzzies when you finish the last page. *Star Bright* is a wonderful tale about a woman rediscovering herself, her inner and outer

strength, and the truly good man who helps her put her life back together. It's sweet and tender, sad and heart-rending, and everything in between. Anderson really makes you feel for Rainie and what she went through. And Parker...well, we should all be so lucky to meet a man like that. He was the perfect hero for this story, the perfect mate for Rainie.

There really wasn't anything I didn't like about this book. I didn't even mind that the physical part of their relationship didn't develop until pretty late in the book. It needed to go that way. Rainie had to heal before she could trust another man like that. The intimate scenes between them were very sweet.

From the great characters, the sweet romance, and the mild suspense, *Star Bright* was enjoyable cover-to-cover. I could make a mild case for the fact that the book has more than a passing similarity to *Sweet Nothings* in that both heroines were escaping evil husbands, and how they had to rediscover themselves after the abuse they went through. The premises were very similar, but the details completely different. There probably could have been a little more variance between the two, but I wasn't particularly bothered by it since *Star Bright* was such a good read.

I do wish there'd been a little more mention of the Coulters. Nothing too involved. Just a mention of how they were doing, babies born or whatnot. They were a great family to read about and I'd have loved an update on them.

Otherwise, this was a solid book through and through. From the first page it had me hooked and kept me reading until I finished. I considered giving this one five stars, but it wasn't quite as good as *Phantom Waltz*, my favorite book of hers. So I settled on four stars, maybe four and a half. For those of you who like Catherine Anderson, I think you'll really enjoy this book. And if you haven't read her and like emotional contemporary romances, then I'd highly suggest giving her a try!

NOTE: though this book is part of a series, it can probably be read as a stand-alone. I'd definitely recommend the other books, though, because this is a fantastic series. And without reading the others, you miss a lot of the family/character nuances.

Kat says

it was a good little book, dont usually read these kind but my mom loaned it to me, she likes these kind

the girl was married to a bad man who only married her for her money. he killed his first two wives was going to kill her on the cruise ship, she got 2 friends to help her escape. he didnt believe she was dead, she moved to crystal falls, this is a series of teh family that lives on teh ranches there and she met the one single man that raised horses to be his accountant. she later confides in him after his sister in law was clairvoyant and read her story . they got the fbi involved and she filed for divorce. they followed her thinking he would come after her but he waited till they stopped following her, tried to kill her , but her new boyfriend the cowboy taught her to defended herself, she defended herself and he got arrested. she married the boyfriend and now im reading the book in the series from before this book that my mom gave me too. its the clairvoyant girl just meeting the brother

Darlene Wilson says

Faking her own death is the only way Rainie Hall can hope to escape her brutal, murderous husband. Now

with a new identity, she finds refuge in the rural community of Crystal Falls, Oregon where she starts work on a horse ranch run by rugged, handsome Parker Harrigan. Parker's word is his honor, & he can't tolerate liars. When he realizes that Rainie hasn't been truthful with him, he's furious.. then concerned. Clearly she's a woman in trouble and Parker swears to protect her no matter what

Brittany B. says

Bored me to tears. Nice idea, but I could not connect with the characters.
This is not the first novel by Ms. Anderson that I couldn't get into. I think it's just a personal preference.

Jeanne (love2cook) says

Enjoyed this story of Rainie Hall and Parker Harrigan. Rainie Hall was in a dangerous and abusive marriage and the only way to escape was to fake her death, to get a new identity and a new place to live. After managing the transformation, she answers an ad for a bookkeeper on Parker Harrigan's ranch. With a kind and loving manor Parker earns her trust and friendship. The romance blooms from there. A good read.

Shirlene says

Lorrainna (Rainie) Hall Danning had lost both her parents by the time she graduated from high school. She was on her own during her college years and fell for married an older, abusive man, Peter Danning. They were on a cruise and she had a friend who worked for the cruise line. She helped arrange Rainie get a new identity and get off the ship as Anne Pritchard. She was headed for Crystal Falls, Oregon.

She was in need of money and accepted a job as accountant for Parker Harrigan. He raised and trained horses. She was nervous and he could tell. He didn't take him long to figure out that she had been abused due to her reaction toward him. He wanted the truth of her background was afraid to push. He told her she could tell him in her own time and he worked on getting her to trust him. One of the ways he did that was to talk about politics and religion until her got a reaction from her. It did finally come. She was surprised when she spoke her mind that he didn't seem upset at all. He told her that he wasn't made that way. He was raised Catholic and didn't believe in hitting women or animals and hated those who did.

Peter had hired a private investigator to find Rainie because it came out that his 2 previous ex-wives had died under mysterious circumstances and left him large amounts of money. Now his current wife had gone missing. He was under suspicion by the police.

Peter's sister, Sam, had previously married an abusive man and told Rainie that everyone makes mistakes. That doesn't make you stupid. Sam was now happily married to a veterinarian. Their dogs had 8 puppies and Parker took one home. Sam told him that Rottweiler's make excellent guard dogs. He took the puppy to work and Mojo stayed with Rainie during the day while Parker was at work with the horses. He asked Rainie to go into town with him the next day to pick up some toys and things and have lunch with him. Rainie told him that it was too much like a date and tried to back out after having accepted. Parker told her that they were just friends and that he would come over and do some work at her place to where if anyone came after her, she would be safe. He knew how to weld and put metal bars on the windows and reinforced her door with steel. She slept well for the first time in quite a while. She hadn't even slept well while she was married because she was always fearful of her husband grabbing her in her sleep. She fixed dinner for Parker.

Parker knew he was becoming increasingly attracted to Rainie. He called and talked to his father, Frank, because of their religious beliefs. His father told him due to the circumstances, he could treat her like she

wasn't married and date her if he chose to. Parker knew that it would take time and patience. She had to learn to trust him first. They would build a good foundation of friendship before it went any further than that. Rainie also knew that she was falling in love with Parker but she was married. She wasn't free or ready to trust her judgment of men yet. She needed to keep her distance.

Peter's private investigator had given him a list of women on the cruise and Peter told him to check out Anne Pritchard because Ann was Rainie's middle name. He was also waiting for a list of the cruise ship employees. The investigator told him that it would be another couple of days.

Rainie soon met Frank and Parker's sister-in-law, Loni. Parker had mentioned that Loni sometimes make him feel uncomfortable but he failed to mention that she was clairvoyant. Loni shook hands hesitantly to keep from seeming rude. She instantly knew Rainie's past. She told Rainie that Peter was looking for her and when he found her, he would kill her. She needed to tell Parker and ask for help. She told Rainie that she knew Peter was going to kill her when they were on the cruise and that he had killed his 2 previous wives. Rainie was frightened enough to go directly to Parker and tell him all about her past with Peter. It was difficult but she told him some of the things Peter had done and he didn't know how she survived. He let her talk until she fell asleep, then he called his family.

The family was discussing her problem when Rainie woke up on Parker's couch. The all agreed to help. Rainie moved into Parker's house. Loni worked with the FBI on child abduction cases so she volunteered to talk to them about Rainie and see if they were willing to help protect her too. Parker began giving Rainie self-defense lessons. Clint, Loni's husband and Parker's brother, developed a diet to help her build muscle tone. Rainie was slowly becoming more like the person she was before she met Peter. Parker didn't push things with Rainie and began performing sneak attacks to sharpen her reflexes. It soon became a game to the two of them and they learned each other's tickle spots. It was a couple weeks later when Rainie realized that she wanted to kiss Parker. Parker let her make the first move and Rainie was surprised to find out that she enjoyed kissing him.

Rainie met with the FBI and they were coming to the ranch house to talk with Rainie. She was relieved to find out that they believed her. They didn't have any concrete proof of his guilt and asked Rainie if she was willing to try and set him up. She was scared to death but didn't want Peter to do this to anyone else.

Rainie told Parker that she loved him the night before she followed the instructions of the FBI and filed for a divorce. Rainie then moved back to her apartment. Parker snuck over every night to see Rainie and she loved him even more for never pressuring her into having sex with him because he knew she wasn't ready.

It was 3 weeks later and Peter still hadn't made a move on Rainie. Rainie was working with Parker and she make contact with his eye. She later kicked him in the groin and Parker went down. It broke something in Rainie and she realized that she was free of Peter. She was ready to have sex with him when he came to visit that night.

It was 2 weeks before the divorce hearing when the FBI came to tell Rainie that they didn't think he would bother her after the divorce hearing. They would watch her until then and go away afterwards. The hearing came and went. Parker then asked his family to continue to watch over her.

Halloween came and Rainie was going to stop by the store and pick up some things she needed to bake and decorate cookies and make mulled wine. Parker called Clint to follow her home. Clint's truck broke down and he had to run a couple miles to get cell service. He called Parker immediately.

Rainie got back in her car after shopping and Peter was in the back seat. He held a knife to Rainie's throat and told her to head home. He had been watching her for weeks and knew that she had sleeping pills at home along with her favorite brand of wine. He was going to make her take too many pills and drink wine. She would fall asleep in her bathtub and drown. Peter had shaved his head and all the hair off, even his eyebrows were gone. He wanted to leave no DNA evidence behind.

Parker called and Rainie tried to tip him off to her problems by telling him that she was making fudge and dressing as a ballerina rather than a witch. Parker didn't catch on immediately. He thought about the conversation when he was in the shower. He then jumped out and called the police. He called her back to try and let her know that he was on to her message.

Janie was forced into her bathtub and he was forcing her to drink more and more wine. She pretended that she was passed out until he took the knife from her neck. She grabbed the wine goblet, broke it and stuck it in Peter's neck. She then hit him over the head multiple times with a wine bottle. He was out and she grabbed

her phone. She called Parker and told him that Peter had fed her sleeping pills and made her drink wine. Parker called the police and told them that Rainie needed an ambulance too. She had passed out while talking to him on the phone. He arrived before the police and called them again. They assured him it wouldn't be long and they arrived to immediately pump her stomach. She would survive.

Peter wound up in the same hospital and the FBI told them that he was so angry at being taken down by her that he was ranting and raving about the murders he had committed. He talked about how he had killed his first 2 wives. He mentioned the poison he used on his first wife and about killing the man who he paid to mess with the brakes on his second wife's car. This was all done in front of his doctors and nurses. Peter was going away for the rest of his life.

During the next two months, Parker located Rainie's grandparents. They had disowned her father when he married her mother. Rainie's mother had a record of drug abuse and prostitution and they didn't approve. They didn't know what had happened to him and knew nothing about Rainie. She had a large group of relatives to get to know. Her grandfather was at her wedding to give her away.

Jane Stewart says

The story was fulfilling, enjoyable and entertaining up until the end, which was frustrating due to hero and heroine stupidity.

STORY BRIEF:

Peter studied, courted and married three heiresses. The first two died under mysterious circumstances. The third is Rainie. He beat and abused her. She believes he plans to kill her, so she fakes her death and runs away using a false identity. She gets a job as a bookkeeper for Parker, a horse breeder on a ranch. When Parker discovers she lied on her job application Rainie believes she must run again. Parker guesses her circumstances and convinces her to stay on, even though she will not tell him any details other than her real first name.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

Most of the book was wonderful. I loved how smart and careful Rainie and Parker were. I loved how Parker slowly charmed Rainie over time. I loved how Rainie slowly began healing and did some other things that I don't want to give away as spoilers. One of my favorite parts was the role Loni played when she first met Rainie. As I was reading, I thought "I agree with two statements on the back cover of the book," "heartwarming, gently sensual" and "emotionally involving, family-centered, and relationship-oriented." I think a person who experienced an abusive relationship would find some healing comfort in this story. Parker is a perfect hero, gentle, loving, devoted, patient and also a strong protector.

A couple of times the book was a little slow, but during most of the book I had various good feelings. My problem was the end of the book. I was angry and frustrated at the stupid (and careless) things done by Parker, Raine, and the police. See Spoiler below.

DATA:

Story length: 408 pages. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 3. Total number of sex scene pages: 10. Setting: current day Seattle, Washington, and Crystal Falls, Oregon. Copyright: 2009. Genre: romantic suspense.

(view spoiler)

Mel Ann says

In order to save herself, she had to DIE. Rainie Hall never stood a chance against Peter after he broke everything inside of her. There is only so much a person can take before the inevitable end is near. And she knew that she wouldn't be coming back from her boat cruise one way or another.

Anna Pritchard had so much groundwork to lay and she needed a job, fast. Parker Harrigan turned out to be a smart mouthed cowboy who wasn't afraid to express his opinions. When Anna applied for the job on his Equine ranch as a bookkeeper, she felt overwhelmed with everything that is Parker Harrigan. She was a mystery to him and he couldn't just take her word at face value. He is a man of truth, a hardworking cowboy with no filter and come hell or highwater, he will get the truth because all he wants is to wrap Anna Pritchard in his arms and keep her safe.

In no time the situation becomes, complicated and after meeting a few of the Harrigan clan, serious decisions have to be made because he's coming and he's not going to give up the cat and mouse game. Thrills, chills and tears that spill, this read had me chewing at my fingernails. A beautiful story of a family coming together to protect the people they love.

Lenny Husen says

I really like this author, and this romance is fun with two lovable main characters. Andersono is equal to LaVyrle Spencer and MUCH better than Nora Roberts and Danielle Steele.

Rating is really 3.5 stars, but upgrading as I truly loved the part where Parker trains Rainie to physically fight him and hurt him, so that she can be prepared in case her horrible Ex ever tries to attack her again.

I suppose this story wasn't for me.

I really did NOT appreciate the annoying Sister-In-Law with magical Psychic powers.

I got bored with the explicit romantic sex scenes which somehow were NOT sexy and had to skim most of the last quarter of the story for that reason. There were stupid decisions made by the heroine.

Bottom Line: if you like romances with some humour and good characters, take Catherine Anderson on the plane or to the beach.

Anita Hayes says

I read some of the other reviews and I have to disagree with some of them. I read to escape and relax and no matter what the story line is, Catherines books always help me escape and relax. I am loving this whole series personally. Sending you big hugs Catherine and I know how hard it is to please everyone which is basically impossible. I am off to get the other books in this line.

Gizella Tóth says

Nem el?ször találkozom már az "egy ágyban az ellenséggel"-féle történettel, s most is nagyon tetszett. Nem tudok nem elgondolkodni azon, vajon nekem lenne-e er?m megpattanni egy ilyen helyzetb?l...

Els? Catherine Andersonom, és rögtön meg is hódított. (Azt hiszem, idén már nem olvasok új szerz?t?l, mert

így sem gy?zöm az újonnan felfedezett kedvenceket.)

Miss Kim says

3.75 stars

I just couldn't get into this book much until the last 40 pages or so. I admit I think it was better than the last two in the series, but it was still on the dull side. I could just be in a mood because this is the third 'abused heroine' book I've read in one week.

I feel the story dragged on and on and on and on.....while the heroine builds her self esteem, trains like Rocky, finally lets the hero make moves on her...then we wait...and wait...and wait for the bad guy to show and try to kill her so we can put him in jail and we can get on with our HEA.

Candy Liggett says

Rainie Hall has been abused by her husband and the only way to break free from him is to fake her own death. She gets some help from her friends and finds herself in Crystal Falls starting her new life. She gets hired by Parker Harrigan owner of a ranch and hires Rainie as his new book keeper. Sparks fly between them but Rainie has lied to Parker with her new identity. Parker figures out her lies now he is trying to figure out who this young woman is and who is she running from. He works on earning Rainie's trust so she will come to know he is not her enemy but someone who cares. Meanwhile her husband has hired a private investigator as he doesn't believe Rainie is dead. He is looking for her and wants to kill her and have everything for himself. Parker will move heaven and earth to protect Rainie will he be able to save her before Peter shows up? This is a very good thriller and the characters are well developed.

Paraphrodite says

3 stars.

This one started strong. Ms Anderson writes heroines escaping from abusive relationships very well. However, I did find it draggy from about midway and the resolution seems to take forever to come around. One positive is that the strong religious elements from the previous 2 books were toned down in this until the end. I guess we can't escape it as the Harrigan family is supposed to be devoted Catholics.

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

I simply love everything about the world Catherine Anderson has created for this passionate family. From book one I have been hooked. Aside from one small scene in one previous book.. There hasn't been anything I've not loved. She simply gives me real romantic moments. Real emotional connections and throws in the day to day struggles we all deal with. Work, family, finances etc. I love a little reality in my fiction because it makes me feel like I get to know the characters. Parker and Ranie were perfect for each other and Parker was absolutely the best kind of hero. I find myself deeply affected by abuse storyline. I survived my own and

when I read about great heroes showing what real love is like well thats just special. I of course love how the author weaves in friendship and family and most importantly faith. There's not enough of that out there anymore.

I don't have the time to read like I used to so when I do I have to enjoy it and I'm so glad I've discovered this author and have so many of her stories to look to.

100% Safe.

Heroine was married but left him due to abuse which for me is as good as a divorce the moment he hurt her. So no cheating or other women drama at all.

Auntee says

Sweet. Very sweet and a typical Catherine Anderson romance. A heroine in trouble, a handsome hero who changes her whole world, some teary moments, and a feel good ending. A nice change of pace read for me. Sometimes it's nice to clear the head and read about a slooow moving romance, told by a master storyteller. Catherine Anderson is excellent at telling a story, and making you believe in her characters and their feelings. The romance was slow to build, and the H/H didn't even actually kiss until almost page 300, but the feelings the H/H had for each other were true and there from the get-go, it was just a matter of time and you knew they'd eventually get there.

Rainie Hall is looking for a way out. Trapped in a marriage to a controlling, psychopathic, abusive S.O.B. who is intent on killing her, there's no way out for her--unless she could somehow fake her own death. (Think Julia Roberts in *Sleeping With the Enemy*). He would never allow her to just walk away or divorce him (he murdered his previous two wives and got away with it), so faking her own death is Rainie's only option. With the help of a couple of very good friends, she pulls a switcheroo while on a cruise with evil hubby Peter (where he's planning to kill her) and manages to convince the authorities that she drowned at sea. Now on the run and with some fake I.D., she shows up in the town of Crystal Falls, Oregon, broke and looking for work. Seeing an ad in the newspaper for a bookkeeping job at a horse ranch, she applies and gets the job. Her boss, Parker Harrigan is talkative, friendly, and sexy--but no way, no how is she looking for romance, and who could blame her after her demeaning experience with her rotten husband? But Parker has a way about him, and before long he finds out most of her secrets, and why she seems so jumpy around him. With Parker's incredibly loving patience, Rainie finds the woman that she used to be--the brave, sassy and sometimes willful girl that is her true self, and leaves the cowering church-mouse behind. Parker and Rainie's initial attraction develops into a sweet and tender love story, and has Rainie thinking she may have a wonderful future after all. But just when it looks like Rainie's life is turning around, she finds that she may not be rid of Peter just yet.

Wow. I haven't read a book with such a kind and patient hero as Parker Harrigan in quite a while--the guy was almost too good to be true. He took shy little church-mouse, afraid-to-give-an opinion Rainie and got her to open up, become the woman she used to be before her husband crushed her spirit, and restored her confidence in herself. Rainie transformed from a pussycat into a tiger--especially near the end of the book when she had a final showdown with her husband. I cheered to myself and said "you go girl!" While it's true that the physical side of Parker and Rainie's love didn't develop until late in the book, the emotional side was there early on. The pace slowed down somewhat for me about mid-book, because by that time you knew that Peter wasn't through with Raine, but it seemed like he was taking forever to make a return appearance. So I was anxious for him to return and get his comeuppance. Let's just say you won't be disappointed. Of course there wasn't a lot of heat in this one--the sex scenes were late in the book and were of the PG-13 variety--but the romance was certainly there. At times when Parker was being so sweet to Rainie it made me tear up, so

this one definitely affected me emotionally. This may not be my favorite of all of Catherine Anderson's stories, but it was still a good romance and a good story about a young woman finding her true self again. A very solid 4 stars.
